

Memorandum

Date: February 10, 2017

To: Ms. Jessica R. Pearson, Executive Officer
Delta Stewardship Council
980 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Mr. James Starr, Chairman
Delta Levee and Habitat Advisory Committee, 2109 Arch Airport Road Suite 100, Stockton, CA 95206

Subject: Delta Stewardship Council Support of SB 554, Wolk. Delta Levee Maintenance

The Delta Levee Habitat Advisory Committee (DLHAC) is concerned that Governor Brown's Office did not sign into legislation SB 554 Wolk. Delta Levee Maintenance, which would continue the Delta Levee Maintenance Program (Program) until July 1, 2020, maintaining the current funding levels and reimbursement rates to the Reclamation Districts. This Program, as it is mandated, provides annual funding to assist over 60 participating local agencies in both maintaining and improving their levees throughout the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

While this bill awaits the Governor's signature, the Delta Levee Program could be repealed; a successful program that has existed over the last 25 years, providing both assistance to local agencies for the purpose of maintaining their levees, while at the same time meeting the legislative mandates of assuring no net loss and net long-term habitat improvements have been met for work funded by the program. It would be tragic if this occurred, and would reduce the amount of funding available for annual maintenance and levee project reimbursement. There has long been a belief by the general public that is repeated by the media, that the levee infrastructure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is in failing condition and this is not true. It is through the Department of Water Resources' Delta Levee Maintenance Subventions Program and the Delta Levee Special Projects Program that has and continues to provide both technical and financial assistance to local agencies and helped them maintain their respective levees.

The Delta Levee Habitat Advisory Committee is requesting that the Delta Stewardship Council provide both written and verbal support to the Office of the Governor of the State of California to encourage the signing of SB554, Wolk. Delta Levee Maintenance bill.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this memorandum, please feel free to contact me at (209) 234-3440.

ec:

Secretary John Laird, CNRA - john.laird@resources.ca.gov
Mr. Thomas Zuckerman - tmz@talavera.us
Mr. Bill Darsie, KSN Inc. - wdarsie@ksninc.com
Mr. Dan Ray, DSC - dan.ray@deltacouncil.ca.gov
Ms. Andrea Labato, DWR - Andrea.Lobato@water.ca.gov
Mr. Jon Wright, DWR - jon.wright@water.ca.gov
Mr. Mark Philipp, CDFW - mark.philipp@wildlife.ca.gov